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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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WALNUT ST. EXT.

Streetscape eyed for new 'downtown'

Shared parking, wider walks, bike lanes in proposed design

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Walnut Street Extension's new look is taking shape — and getting mixed reviews.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission unveiled a streetscape design concept on Feb. 20 for the commercial properties near the intersection of Main, Springfield and Suffield streets, which town officials hope to transform into a downtown-style shopping district. The proposal would redefine the neighborhood with inviting sidewalks, a "pocket park" bike lanes, shared on-street parking and a gateway arch.

What it doesn't include is a solution for the current defining element of the Walnut Street Extension landscape — the abandoned, contaminated and deteriorating Games and Lanes property.

"I honestly don't think this design will help anything," said Rene O'Keefe, owner of Hair & Co. at 381 Walnut Street Ext. "I think the real problem is the eyesore across the street, Games and Lanes. It needs to be cleaned up so that people will want to come to this area. ... What is the point of beautifying the area and the parking if this eyesore is still going to be here?"

WALNUT | page 6

STEM EDUCATION



Sarah Kriebel loves science and is fascinated by the moon. The first grader's interest in the moon became her project for the Granger Elementary School's science and engineering fair on March 5. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

Students participate in science, engineering fair

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Fascinated by the moon, 6-year old Sarah Kriebel turned her interest into a science project.

The first grader at Granger Elementary School was one of 53 kindergarten to grade 4 students who showed off their

interest in a variety of science topics at the school's annual science and engineering fair. Projects filled the school's gym on the evening of March 5 as students eagerly showed off their work to parents, friends, and classmates.

Projects ranged from fairly simple display boards to elaborate working displays about a science or engineering

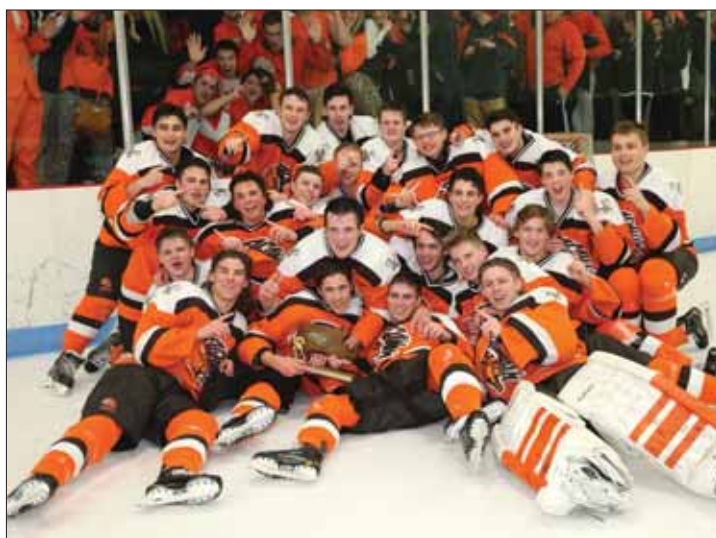
topic. The projects become more challenging with each higher grade level.

Kindergarteners used labeled or cross-section diagrams, first and second graders organized collections or photographs of natural objects or made models to provide information. Third and fourth graders could choose from among three

FAIR | page 24

HOCKEY

Best of the west



Agawam's varsity hockey team won the program's first-ever Western Mass. Division 3 championship with a victory over rival Westfield at the Olympia rink in West Springfield on Thursday, March 5. The team will now face the Central Mass. winner, North Middlesex, in the state semifinals Thursday in Springfield. Story and more photos on page 12. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY / SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

ROSIE ROBOTICS

Agawam FIRST team awarded at district event

By Michael J. Ballway
and Andrew Mansfield
mballway@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD — Rosie Robotics didn't win the tournament, but the Agawam team did win two judges' awards and finish in the top half of teams at a regional robotics tournament last week-end.

At the New England FIRST Pioneer Valley District Event at the MassMutual Center, March 6-7, Rosie won the Industrial Safety Award and the Quality Award. Additionally, one of the team's mentors, Lynn Henry of Agawam, received the event's volunteer award.

The two team awards are citations for "progressing beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards" and



Rachael Blain explains how the robotics competition works to a group of Doering School students on a field trip to the FIRST Pioneer Valley District competition in Springfield last week. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

"machine robustness in concept and fabrication."

As in the "real world" of science and high technology, seemingly everything about FIRST is

an acronym — starting with the name of the competition itself, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. There

ROBOTS | page 8

agawam
& feeding
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Clarification

The high school program at St. Mary’s Parish School of Westfield will be invited to join a regional Catholic high school (“Cathedral, Holyoke Catholic HS Merger Announced,” Feb. 26, page 3), but the decision rests with St. Mary’s parish. St. Mary’s has no plans to merge with any other school, and will “remain open as it is,” Head of School Nichole Nietzsche said last week.

Agawam actor steps into ‘Capt. Howard’ history



Actors Susan Buchholz, of Pittsfield, and Walter Mantani, of Agawam, will star in “Meet Captain and Mrs. Howard” with performances at the Windsor Historical Society. Submitted photo

WINDSOR, Conn. — You are busily preparing to host your son’s fiancée’s family for dinner on a weekend afternoon when there’s a knock on your door. Unexpected guests! Take a journey back in time and step into the role of those guests in 1810 at Windsor Historical Society’s Strong Howard House, 96 Palisado Ave.

Actors Susan Buchholz of Pittsfield, Mass., and Walter Mantani of Agawam will welcome attendees in period dress into the 1810 home, where visitors really can touch everything and are encouraged to ask the actors questions.

Half-hour performances of “Meet Captain and Mrs. Howard” inside the house will take place March 14, 15, 28, 29, and April 11 and 12, from 1 to 1:30 p.m., 2 to 2:30 p.m., and 3 to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary since space is limited inside the house. Reservations may be made by calling the society at 860-688-3813. Walk-ins will be accommodated only as space allows. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for Windsor Historical Society members and Lets Go Art Card holders. The performances, directed by Kandie Carle, are partially supported by an Ignition Grant from the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

The Society is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Tours of its two historic homes are offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. General admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students and free to children under 12 and WHS members.

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iPads honor Evan Baird's passion for helping children

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Evan Baird loved helping children. Her dream was a career in which she could help as many children as possible.

Her life was tragically cut short before she could fulfill that aspiration. But Evan's dream still lives on through her family. They recently presented the Agawam Early Childhood Center with two iPads valued at \$500 each in Evan's memory. An identical iPad will also be donated to Granger Elementary School teacher Susan Nowell, Evan's third-grade teacher.

These donations are the most recent ones the Baird family — parents Barbara and Todd, brother Elijah, and sister Leisl — has made through the EvvGirl Foundation. The foundation was created to honor Evan Baird after she was killed in a car crash near Boston in May 2013.

The mission of the EvvGirl Foundation ("EvvGirl" was Evan's Twitter username) is to "generate smiles and happiness" by continuing many of the things that Evan was in interested in and excited about doing. Her passions included nursing, specifically neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), pediatrics and maternity, as well as early childhood education and cheerleading.

At the time of her death, Evan was attending Curry College in Milton, Mass., and planning to become a NICU nurse. She had worked at the college's early childhood center — which was also the beneficiary of several iPads from the foundation — but the Bairds also wanted to do something in Evan's hometown to honor her.

"Since our children loved going to the Agawam Early Childhood Center, we thought it would be a very appropriate donation," said Barbara Baird as she and her son Elijah, a junior at AHS, delivered the iPads to the center last week. She added that some of Evan's teachers are still at the ECC.

Robin Fernandes, the center's director, called the iPads "a wonderful surprise." She said the new iPads — both pink, Evan's favorite color — will support the use of technology by children in the center's program and will supplement its curriculum.

"We include apps that may support interactive, turn-taking play, and support language or readiness skills, such as vocabulary building, letter recognition, math skills, etc.," said Fernandes.

"With the newer iPads, which also have cameras, we can get the latest apps. Our students love taking pictures and then developing stories about the pictures. This is a valuable literacy activity which develops oral language and vocabulary," she added.



Barbara Baird and her son Elijah look on as students at the Agawam Early Childhood Center eagerly open one of two new pink iPads the Baird family recently donated in memory of Evan Baird. Helping teacher Debbie King are, from left, Alexi Federico, Yoesayan Failey, Faith Chiba and Kevin Taralunga. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Kevin Taralunga, 4, and Jack Reading, 4, students at the Agawam Early Childhood Center, present Barbara Baird with thank-you cards for two pink iPads her family donated in memory of her daughter Evan.

Evan's love for children

Evan began elementary school at a parochial school in East Longmeadow, but she transferred to Agawam at the start of third grade.

"Mrs. Nowell provided such a smooth transition for Evan — she was one of her favorite teachers," said Evan's mother. "We couldn't have asked for a more loving, caring, and perfect teacher for our daughter."

The Bairds said the iPad donations are

a way for them to show their appreciation for these schools and teachers who were "a loving and instrumental influence" in Evan's life. As the oldest of three children and the oldest of her cousins on her mother's side, Evan always loved kids and mothering everyone else, explained Barbara Baird.

"She loved the children she babysat -- and she wanted to continue her love of children by becoming a NICU nurse. We just know Evan would be smiling that amazing smile of hers at the thought of what her foundation is doing."

Almost \$50K raised

Since its founding less than two years ago, the EvvGirl Foundation has raised nearly \$50,000 through donations, Red Sox bus trips, a golf tournament and numerous individual fundraisers put on by Curry College cheerleaders as well as many local individuals and organizations.

In January 2014, the foundation purchased six webcams for the Davis NICU at Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield in honor of Evan. According to Todd Baird, the foundation is working to get additional webcams installed at the Davis NICU and at NICUs at other hospitals.

"Evan was born at Baystate, which is one of the reasons why they are the first recipients of the webcams," said Barbara Baird. "We also found out one week after her passing that Evan got an internship job at Baystate in their NICU department."

Also in 2014, the foundation donated iPads to the Perry Lane Summer Camp in Agawam, where Evan worked for many years.

"The camp and instructors were very special to her," said Evan's mother. "Perry Lane donated the proceeds from their penny carnival to the foundation and wore pink tie-dyed shirts in Evan's honor."

The Bairds said it "truly is amazing" that the town continues to honor Evan in many ways, from donations and fundraisers to "loving support and open arms." They added that they cannot begin to express their gratitude for this emotional and financial support.

"These iPad donations to the ECC and Mrs. Nowell, are one little way of giving back. You can be sure we will continue to pay it forward in the future," said Barbara Baird.

She said that every pink sunset reminds many people of her daughter. "That's truly heartwarming. Honoring Evan's memory is our mission — and sustains us during the difficult days we will continue to have."



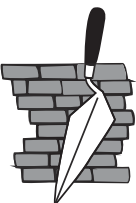
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Family and Friends support: 7 to 9 pm

- Wednesday, Mar. 11
- Wednesday, Apr. 8

Widowed support: 1:30 to 3:30 pm

- Wednesday, Mar. 11
- Wednesday, Apr. 8

East Longmeadow

220 North Main St. (Forastiere Grief Support Center)

Parent support: 7 to 9 pm

- Thursday, Mar. 12
- Thursday, Apr. 9

Survivors of suicide support: 7 to 9 pm

- Monday, Mar. 16
- Monday, Apr. 20

Widowed support: 7 to 9 pm

- Thursday, Mar. 19
- Thursday, Apr. 16

Southwick

625 College Highway (Tucker's Restaurant)

Family and Friends support: 6:30 to 8 pm

- Wednesday, Mar. 18
- Wednesday, Apr. 15

West Springfield

128 Park St. (West Springfield Senior Center)

Family and Friends support: 3:15 to 4:15 pm

- Wednesday, Mar. 18
- Wednesday, Apr. 15

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

It's a great day for the Irish

When "everyone's Irish for a day" next Tuesday, almost a quarter of Agawam won't notice the change.

That's because Agawam is 22 percent Irish, according to Census Bureau figures. That's only slightly lower than Massachusetts as a whole, and Massachusetts is the most Irish state in the country. Agawam is more Irish than anything else — if the federal government can be believed, the sons and daughters of Erin outnumber all other ethnicities.

If that's a surprise, it's only because Irish-Americans, when they're not outfitted with a knit sweater, green socks, scally cap and shillelagh, don't exactly stick out from a crowd. Irish culture and Irish immigrants have become so thoroughly American that it's easy to forget that they were once as feared, scorned and vilified as any other ethnic minority.

Our nation's founding culture — British Protestants — was no kinder to the Catholic Irish immigrants of the 19th century than the British were to the Irish on their own home soil. Long before America's nativists feared Muslims, or Jews, or Hispanics, or Asians, they campaigned against the Irish. The Irish faced bigotry in society, ridicule in popular culture, outright discrimination in the workplace.

Yet the Irish — like many waves of immigrants from all corners of the world who followed them — persevered. They and their coreligionists built a stellar network of schools and colleges so that the second generation of Irish-Americans could advance beyond being bricklayers and canal-diggers. They organized into a political force that captured city halls, state capitols and, eventually, the White House. They added their brand of wit, irony and dark humor to the national language. They became American — and America became, at least in part, them.

Down through the decades, the holiday of their patron saint, St. Patrick's Day, became first a minority's statement of identity, then a community's showcase of accomplishment, then a true national holiday where everybody participates.

It's fashionable among killjoys to say that we've bleached all the true Irishness out of this holiday, to note that the Irish in Ireland didn't traditionally have secular parades on St. Patrick's Day, dress up like leprechauns and consider corned beef and cabbage to be high cuisine for a banquet.

Well, St. Patrick's Day in America is an American holiday — a day to celebrate the unique Irish American experience. Or perhaps it's a day to celebrate something not so unique, in a nation built by immigrants, combining a world's worth of foods, faiths and traditions into one culture.

The Irish experience has been a model for other immigrant and ethnic groups. Italian-Americans followed a similar progression from discrimination to inclusion; Asian-Americans and Hispanic Americans, to name but two broad groupings, are well along a version of this path today. They have a lot to celebrate on March 17, too.

Something to think about while standing on a curb in Holyoke (incidentally, only 14 percent Irish these days), watching for the Agawam St. Patrick's Day float and Colleen Court.



Letters to the Editor

Rotary wine-tasting a success

As chairman of the Agawam Rotary Winter Warm-Up, I would like to thank everyone who helped us make our first Rotary wine tasting a success.

For those of you who are not familiar with Agawam Rotary, we have been chartered by Rotary International since 1976. We meet every Wednesday for lunch at the Storowton Tavern Restaurant.

The club is made up of business people and professionals. Our purpose is to raise funds for local and international charities. We give back to the community with donations to the food pantry, library, senior center, Agawam YMCA, Smith House, Salvation Army, Toys for Joy, Rosie Robotics and many others. We also give multiple scholarships to Agawam High School seniors.

The Rotary also co-sponsors the summer concert series on the green, a golf tournament with the senior center, Christmas concert and the Harvest Festival. All of our fundraising activities are aimed at helping our community and a multiple of international projects.

We are successful because of overall community support as was proven by the success of our Winter Warm-Up. For anyone interested in finding out more about the Agawam Rotary, check out our website at www.AgawamRotary.org.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Magovern, chairman
Agawam Rotary Winter Warm-Up

JAY SPEAKS

Life cycles

This past week I experienced a good example of the cycle of life, from birth until death, within our immediate family. Surprisingly, the good in this cycle seemed to exceed the bad.

On Sunday, we received a call from our older son that his mother-in-law had died earlier in the day. Kitty and I have been friendly with Jan's mom and dad since Scott and Jan were married. We visited back and forth and attended opera together as well as day trips to Tanglewood. As soon as we heard, went to the train station and got ticketed to New Jersey for the funeral.

We no sooner returned from the train station than the phone rang and we saw that it was from our younger son Joe. He told us that Kitty's cousin had died in Chicago and that the funeral would be in Springfield. Both funerals would be on Wednesday.

We gave up our train tickets and made plans for the Wednesday funeral. Looking at our email later that day, we noted that another of Kitty's younger cousins had her third child, her first son. Wow, that was almost spooky.

Then later in the day, Scott called again with the news that the White House had called and was interested in him for an important position in safety engineering (his field). Something was developing fast in our life.

On Monday through Friday we received a series of phone calls from each of our grandkids. First, they wanted to commiserate with us on the two grandparents that died. Then each of them told us what was going on in their lives.

Our youngest, Amelia, was elected president of her sorority in college. Along with the job came a great apartment with her own bath and all sorts of extras. She loved her courses and all was well.

Emma called from Illinois. She had recently graduated from the University of Kansas and had accepted a position with the Chicago Tribune. The "Trib" is in all media:

radio, TV, newspapers, et al. She is training in newspapers, and in our family, we have a long history of newspaper people. Emma is moving into downtown Chicago.



Jay Berger
Guest Columnist

Allison called with her condolences and updated us with what she is doing. She is a skilled dancer and choreographer, graduating from Muhlenberg College. She is also a superb writer and singer. She is doing a lot of dancing and solved the problem of someone stealing her writings on Amazon. Good for you, Allison.

Later in the week we heard from Margot, who is working with a startup company in electronics. They are doing quite well, and as with all startups, they hope to be acquired by Google or Apple and everyone gets the big bucks forevermore. Margot is a Penn State graduate in education. Electronics is a part of education, no?

Friday or Saturday, Anna called. She was married to Pete last May. Both of them are lawyers, graduating from UPenn Law School. Pete works with a financial firm in New York City and like all young lawyers works a 12-14 hour day, six or seven days per week. Anna is a criminal defense lawyer in Brooklyn. Everyone deserves representation in their defense, she says! They both love what they are doing.

Also checking in was our one male grandchild, Ben. He gave us an update on his work in the library, lab, and bookstore. Multi-talented, he walks and bikes everywhere. He promises he will set to see us really soon.

Before I forget, our daughter Cynthia drove down from Pennsylvania and attended the funeral with us on Wednesday. She represents us in many family functions.

The week fortified my concept of "Life Cycle" from birth to death and all the way stations in between. It is so great to be a part of it!

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.

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ZBA partially upholds truck no-parking order

By Christopher Faille
aan@turley.com

The ZBA overturned one-third of an order prohibiting truck parking at certain properties on Main Street, though the zoning code may prohibit the practice throughout town.

In a meeting that largely revisited site plan hearings from late 2013, the Zoning Board of Appeals on March 9 said that Mushy's Golf Center LLC is not allowed to park trucks overnight at 385-389 Main St. But the board also ruled that because the 2013 site plan did not affect 369 Main St., a subsequent cease-and-desist order, issued by the building inspector, should not apply to the third property.

Several neighbors complained that they cannot sleep through the night because truck-related activity is so noisy. One neighbor, Richard Melloni of Greenock Street, went further.

"It's bad. It looks terrible. It's dangerous. All the crimes started when the trucks started parking over there," he said. Criminals preying upon the neighborhood "can hide between the trucks."

Mushy's principals Dana Hammett and Steve Zicoella, and attorney Mark Beglane of the Springfield firm Bacon

Wilson, represented the property owner. Also, appearing in their support was Asmir Katika, who owns three of the trucks that park overnight, and employs their drivers.

The acting chairman of the ZBA, Richard Maggi, told Beglane outright that "our zoning code prohibits this type of motor vehicle, commercial or otherwise, from being parked on a lot out in the open for hire." But he said the purpose of Monday's ZBA meeting was not to enforce this law, but only to address the cease-and-desist order.

In November 2013, the ZBA heard from some of the neighbors of the property and from Dunkin' Donuts, which leases part of that property. At that time, the neighbors asked whether trucks would be permitted on the site going forward.

That meeting was continued until the following month. At the Dec. 9, 2013, meeting, the ZBA approved the site plan for 385-389 Main St., with six conditions. One of these was that "there will be no overnight parking of tractor-trailers, especially in the right of way."

One year later, the town building inspector found the property owner to be violating this condition, and issued a cease-and-desist order — but named all three properties, even though the 2013 ZBA hearing had made no reference to 369 Main St.

COUNCIL AGENDA

City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Monday, March 16
7 p.m.

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen's Speak Time
- D. Minutes
- 1. Regular council meeting – March 2, 2015
- E. Declaration from council president
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
 - 1. TR-2015-14- A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation Funds for the rehabilitation of the tennis courts at Perry Lane (CPA) (Referred to Finance Committee)
 - 2. TR-2015-15- A Resolution accepting a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A for the Agawam Personnel Department (Mayor)
- G. Report of council committees
- H. Elections
- I. Public Hearings
- J. Old Business
 - 1. TOR-2015-1- An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam to add section 180-95A to assist the council in zone change requests involving the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District (Councilors Rossi, Letellier and Perry) (2 of 2 Readings)
 - 2. TO-2015-13- Budgetary transfer of \$10,000.00 from Health Regular Salaries (#15101-51010) to Health Temporary Salaries (#15101-51020) (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)
 - 3. TO-2015-14- Budgetary transfer of \$11,994.00 from Reserve Fund (#16605-57300) to Community Development Professional Services (#11802-52190) (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)
 - 4. TOR-2015-3- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 103 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (Mayor) (1 of 2 readings)(Referred to Legislative Committee)
 - 5. TOR-2015-4- An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam by adding Chapter 178 Fingerprint-based Criminal Record Background Checks (Mayor) (1 of 2 readings) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
- K. New business: Unavailable at press time.
- L. Any other matter that may legally come before the city council.
- Adjournment



Students from the Mary Ann Studio of Dance took part in the Dance for Heart recently at Eastfield Mall in Springfield. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Ann dancers benefit Heart Association at mall

Finally a bright and sunny day on the weekend and it was time to get out there, and the students from the Mary Ann Studio of Dance did just that. Off the dancers were to the Eastfield Mall in Springfield to put on two benefit performances for the American Heart Association.

The Dance for Heart is an annual event for the Mary Ann Studio of Dancers, and they have participated in this event for over 40 years. The dancers help to raise funds for the American Heart Association.

Each year the dancers secure donations for the Heart

Association, which then presents them with the opportunity to perform at the Eastfield Mall. From the youngest dancers gaining experience for their first show, to veteran dancers, it is a group effort which is enjoyed by all, from the dancers, to their friends and family who have come to watch, as well as the shoppers taking a break from their shopping.

For the dancers, sharing their love of dance with others, while doing a little good for a charity, it was a doubly good day.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to aan@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.



Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Stephen Jacaprarro, DMD, were Donna Kennedy and Marcia Haas. A late submission correctly identifying John Burns in the Feb. 26 issue was received from Glenn Tatro. A late submission correctly identifying Christine Jeserski in the Feb. 19 issue was received from Lloyd Paro.



Animal shelter volunteers needed

The Agawam Health Department is seeking residents who wish to become members of the local Emergency Pet Shelter Team. Volunteers should have a background working with animals in times of stress.

Interested volunteers should contact the Health Department, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more information or to complete an application. Call 413-786-0400, ext. 8207.

Lady golfers wanted

WESTFIELD — The Ladies Late Afternoon Tuesday Golf League at East Mountain Country Club is seeking new members to join them this season from mid-April to mid-September. Anyone interested is invited to a meeting at East Mountain Country Club, 1458 E. Mountain Road, Westfield, on Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Kathy Baker at 413-734-3225 or Betty Gilbert at 413-562-0453. All ability levels are welcome.

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Obituaries & Church News

Church seeks Easter artwork

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, is looking for artists of all abilities to participate in this year's Easter art exhibit, "It Is Finished," to be held at the church during the Easter season.

Pieces should in some way reflect the biblical account of the events leading up to and including the Easter narrative. Adults and children are encouraged to participate. Artwork should be submitted to the church no later than March 15.

For full submission guidelines, visit the Facebook page, "Hope Community Church Easter Art Exhibit 2015," the website, www.hopechurchagawam.org, or call Lou Kochanek, director of Worship and the Arts, at 413-885-4932.

Hymns, pie on night of March 27

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host its Hymn & Pie Night on Friday, March 27, from 7 to 9 pm. Although primarily contemporary in their Sunday worship, each year Hope dusts off the hymnbooks to sing some old favorite hymns, after which the congregation gathers together to eat delicious pie. It's casual, inspirational and fun.

Participants are welcome to bring a pie to share, if possible, but it is not required.

For more information, visit the church Facebook page, "Hope Community Church Hymn & Pie Night 2015," the website, www.hopechurchagawam.org or call Lou Kochanek, director of worship and the arts, at 413-885-4932.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DEATH NOTICES

- Anderson, Arthur W.**
Died March 8, 2015
Services March 12, 2015
Lucas & Eaton Funeral Home
York, Maine
- Atwater, Elizabeth**
Died March 6, 2015
Private Services
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam
- LaBerge, Barbara J.**
Died Feb. 21, 2015
Private Services
- Rossi, Carmine I.**
Died March 2, 2015
Funeral March 6, 2015
Agawam Funeral Home
- Shapiro, Archie J.**
Died March 9, 2015
Funeral March 10, 2015
Ascher-Zimmerman Funeral Home
Springfield
- Webb, Barbara S.**
Died March 7, 2015
Spring burial
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Bishop offers reflection on 'joy of the Gospel'

Sacred Heart Church, 1065 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a "Lenten Evening Reflection" with Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, Wednesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. The topic of the presentation is "Putting Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel into Everyday Life," based on the encyclical by Pope Francis.

A light supper will be served between 5:30 and 6:45 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. There is no charge for the evening, but a free will offering will be accepted for the supper. The hall accommodates 220 people.

For more information, contact Jean Raczkowski at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.



Bishop Rozanski

WALNUT ■ from page 1

O'Keefe said she has been following the design process and regularly attends Walnut Street Extension Advisory Committee meetings.

At least one other local merchant, however, likes what he sees.

"I believe it could really help out," said James Feeley, general manager of Agawam Bowl at 359-363 Walnut Street Ext. "We could use anything that may bring more people out to the area. We definitely do need more parking out here." Feeley said the current parking scene — with separate parking lots and driveways for the several stores and strip malls — can be cumbersome.

"As far as the bowling alley goes, we need the parking spaces," said Feeley. "There are not a lot of bowling alleys anymore, so people travel from a distance to come here. When this place was first built, people usually walked here." The proposed design would create public parking in place of the individual off-street lots. The public parking would allow for more overall spaces and would create access to a walking promenade for public use. That promenade would be decorated and include trees, park benches and other amenities. A bike path is also included in the plans.

As for Games and Lanes, Mayor Richard Cohen said last week that he is working with a redevelopment company interested in purchasing the property. The previous owner spent more than \$1 million on environmental cleanup, Cohen said, and the prospective buyer estimates the site needs another \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Grant application next

Michelle Chase, head of the town's Engineering Department, is on the Advisory Committee and said the redevelopment will revitalize the neighborhood.

"I think it's really great," said Chase. "This town needs a center and I think if we can provide a certain continuity to the area that it will draw out a lot of people."

From an engineering standpoint, Chase says the conceptual plan is very solid and she hopes a consultant can transform the plan into one that could qualify for grant funding. Prior to her retirement, Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos applied for a Downtown Initiative Grant that would pay for a consultant to create an engineering design.

That design could then be used toward a MassWorks grant of up to \$1 million, says PVPC Planner Chris Curtis, the chief planner on the project. He added that it is still too early to put a price tag on the construction.

"We are way too early in the process to provide any kind of cost estimate," he said. "We still need to get an engineer and get actual engineered drawings in order to start coming up with a cost estimate. Right now, we really cannot offer any type of an estimate." According to the plan, the next steps are to continue the develop of the proposal by going over finer details, such as park benches and dining areas that would be located in the pedestrian area. The town will also solicit feedback from stakeholders of the project, including MassWorks, and finalize the conceptual plan.

Curtis says the town is waiting to hear whether they received the Downtown Initiative grant and also said a property owner's meeting is taking place in the near future with property owner Larry White leading the group.

"Larry is on our subcommittee," said Curtis. "He's going to hold a meeting among the property owners to gauge their support for the proposal, and he will bring feedback to us."

The feedback from the property owners could help guide the engineering plans.

Curtis said the subcommittee is also



A computer rendering of the plan for a "downtown" district on Walnut Street Extension, looking northeast toward West Springfield.



A computer rendering of the proposed gateway arch for the north end of Walnut Street Extension. PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION IMAGES

going to be working with the Planning Board to develop guidelines about architecture and landscaping in the area. The guidelines will ensure consistency throughout the businesses.

Curtis said the Mixed Use Zoning pro-

posal passed last year by the Agawam City Council is a big reason the proposal is going forward.

Staff writer Michael J. Ballway contributed to this report.

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ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Audiences help with 'Idol' eliminations

The inaugural Agawam Idol competition is bringing large crowds to the Springfield Turnverein as the March 28 finals approach.

Earlier this week, organizer Joe LaBrecque said about a dozen contestants participated in the March 10 quarterfinal round of the singing competition. Agawam Idol began with tryouts last month, with about 50 aspirants. The format is similar to the hit television show "American Idol."

The semifinals are scheduled for the night of March 18, with three finalists advancing to the last performance 10 days later. Mayor Richard Cohen will serve as a special guest on the judge's panel for the final night, LaBrecque said, and singers who were previously eliminated will be brought back for a role in the competition.

Both the semifinals and finals will take place at 6 p.m. in the Springfield Turnverein, 60 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

LaBrecque said he and the Turnverein entertainment committee have been planning little surprises to tweak the format of the show each week. During one round, he said, the audience was asked to vote on who should be eliminated — rather than the traditional vote on whom to keep.

"I always have a twist," LaBrecque said.

For more information, visit springfieldturnverein.com.

Junior Women's Club to meet

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club will hold its next meeting Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Club president Samantha Rudd will be speaking to the group about leadership.

At the February meeting, member Rosalie Dialessi spoke about the Shot @ Life program, a United Nations endeavor through which underprivileged children throughout the world receive life-saving vaccinations.

Any women who are interested in serving the community are welcome to join. This year, the AJWC is celebrating 58 years of volunteer service in the community. The club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest female volunteer organizations in the world.

Anyone interested in learning more about the AJWC and its volunteer projects is invited to join the monthly meeting. Guests and potential new members are welcome. A social gathering will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. AJWC meetings are always open to the public.

For more information about how to become a member, contact Christina Beauchemin, membership chairperson, at 413-427-8784.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement—Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better. Call for your Appointment

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Actor to bring 'Cranky Yankees' history to life

The Agawam Cultural Council welcomes actor Jim Cooke to the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., on Friday, April 10, at 7 p.m. as part of its popular Applause Series. Cooke will present his one-man show, "Cranky Yankees — All Together Now!"

An actor who turned from the drama of the stage to the "dry" pages of history, Cooke developed this one-man show to compare and contrast the divergent characters from New England history that he has taken on:

- Edward Everett, the Massachusetts politician and orator who spoke for more than two hours at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., immediately before Abraham Lincoln, delivered his two-minute Gettysburg Address.

- Daniel Webster — he didn't "write" the dictionary, but JFK did include him in his "Profiles in Courage." Find out how he earned the nicknames "Black Dan" and "God-like Daniel."

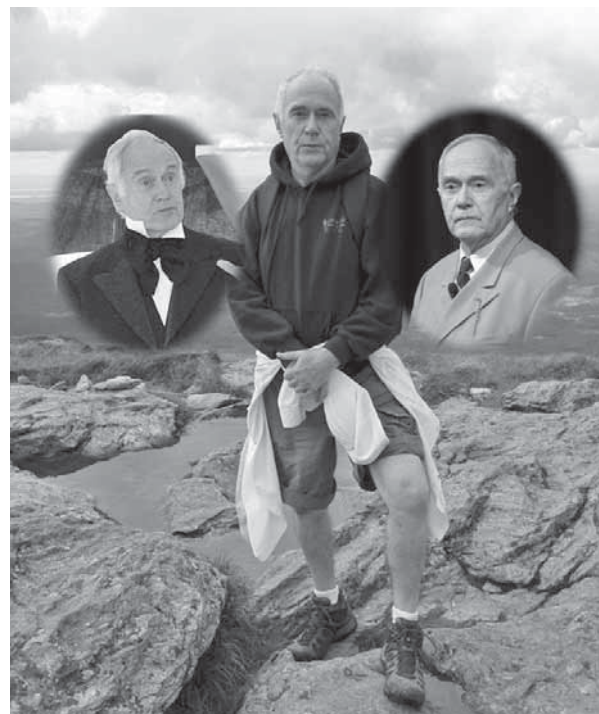
- Calvin Coolidge — whoever nicknamed him "Silent Cal" simply was not paying attention. Like turkeys leaping into a barrel, historians have rushed one after another to consign Coolidge to the dust-bin of history. Learn why Will Rogers called his friend the "funniest public man I ever met."

- John Quincy Adams — our sixth president, and eldest son of John and Abigail Adams. Four years ago, the U.S. State Department sent Jim Cooke to Russia as John Quincy Adams to mark the bicentennial of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

The library can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state



Jim Cooke, center, portrays 19th century Massachusetts politician Edward Everett, left, and Calvin Coolidge, right, among other New Englanders, as part of "Cranky Yankees — All Together Now!" SUBMITTED PHOTO

agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Legends show to benefit USO

A rock and roll tribute to the Great Legends of American music will help raise funds for the local USO of Pioneer Valley. The show takes place on stage at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam on Sunday, March 29. Cocktails will be available at 4 p.m., followed by seating at 5 p.m. and the show at 6 p.m.

Local tribute artists will include Ray Guillemette Jr. as Elvis; Rick Larimore as Rod Stewart; Ben Ashley as Buddy Holly; Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond; Atoa Ripley with a tribute to Lou Rawls and Tom Jones; Brian McCullough with a tribute to Roy Orbison; Erving Lewis as Lionel Ritchie; Patrick Tobin with a tribute to Frank Sinatra; Nicky Fuller as Lady Gaga; Gregorio Malante as Tina Turner and Vicki Rose with a tribute to Celine Dion. The performers will be backed up by Joe Perreira's Western Mass. All Stars.

Tickets are available at the Chez Josef. To make a reservation, call the box office at 413-355-5394.

Discounted ski tickets on sale

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department has a limited number of discounted one-day passes available to the Blandford Ski Area. Passes will be sold for \$25 and are good any day that Blandford is open. The ski area is in the town of Blandford, about a half-hour drive northwest of Agawam.

These passes represent a significant discount from weekend lift ticket rates at Blandford, which range as high as \$44 for an adult Saturday ticket. Passes are on sale at 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, with a limit of two passes per person.

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Easter Egg Hunt scheduled

The town of Agawam Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department, the Agawam Lions Club and the Agawam Rotary Club, will take place Saturday, March 28, at School Street Park.

Due to limited parking, only 175 families will be permitted into the park that day. Cars will not be permitted into the park without the pink copy of the registration form. Registration will begin Tuesday, March 17, in the Parks and Recreation office, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, and will be limited to the first 175 families. Cost is \$5 per family.

Participants are encouraged to arrive early, as the hunt will begin promptly at 11 a.m., and should bring a basket or bag to collect the eggs. Approximately 8,000 eggs will be available in three age-appropriate areas (4 and younger; 5 to 7; 8 and older) with special prizes in each area.

The rain or snow date is Saturday, April 4.

TVAA meeting open to the public

The Tobacco Valley Artists Association will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 pm at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. The demonstrating artist for this meeting will be Joan Barnard of Western Massachusetts.

Barnard is a self-taught artist who has always had a love of painting and drawing. Working primarily in egg tempera and acrylic, she also loves to explore new media and will use whatever works best with a given subject. She has won numerous awards, and currently works and teaches at her studio at Indian Orchard Mills.

TVAA is comprised of 170 member artists throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Meetings are open to the public.

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In the Classroom

Team OMG completes rookie season

Agawam Robotics' FTC 90 Team OMG finished its rookie season after attending the Massachusetts FTC State Championship tournament held at Natick High School on Feb. 28. Team OMG is an Agawam Robotics team consisting of students from Agawam High School and Junior High School. In addition to building a robot for competitions, OMG's mission is to promote and spark the interest of science, math, engineering and technology in students of all ages.

The team attended its first qualifying tournament at Arlington High School on Jan. 24, along with another Agawam FTC team 839, Mighty Mechanics. OMG performed well and was in second place moving on to the elimination rounds. Because the team was able to deliver consistent match performances throughout the day, it was picked by the top-ranking team from Dorchester, Team Technado, to be its alliance for the final matches. Team OMG was one match away from clinching the Winning Alliance title, but was disconnected

during the final match. However, the rookie team was satisfied to bring home its first earned trophy, the Finalist Alliance Award.

Team OMG was sponsored by Agawam Robotics Education Association, FIRST, PTC, National Instruments, Pelican Cases, and local businesses such as OMG Inc., Mitchell Auto Group, Thermal Dynamix, Down Under Irrigation, CDA Roofing, MTG Inc., Westfield Bank, Stellato Brothers Landscaping, Allied Flooring and Paint, Tower Electric, Sign Techniques Inc., Schlafli Chiropractic Office, Admiral Masonry & Property Services and AJK Landscaping.

FTC, FIRST Tech Challenge, is a program designed for students in grades seven through 12 who want to compete head-to-head using a sports model. Teams design, build and program robots. Awards are given for the competition. Teams also take part in community outreach, design, and get experience about other real-world accomplishments. For more information, visit ftc90.agawamrobotics.org.



Agawam Robotics Team OMG recently competed in the Massachusetts FTC State Championship. SUBMITTED PHOTO

A few of the faces behind Rosie

Interviews by Andrew Mansfield
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



Ali Bessette

Ali, a senior at AHS, is the team's CEO. She started FIRST at lower grade levels in Agawam schools, and it's changed how she looks at her future: "Five years ago I wanted to be an actress," but now she is interested in industrial engineering. She says she fell in love with robotics and that it "showed me something I thought I could never be."



Anna Pirogova

Anna is a sophomore and helped build the robot. She joined the team last year, after a friend suggested it to her, and said it has convinced her to pursue engineering as a career. It also introduces students to a grown-up workplace environment, she said, and builds a "family" of friends. "We all talk to each other and help each other out," she said. "I look forward to it. I'm excited to go work with the team."



Paul Hotaling

Paul, a senior and the club's chief operations officer, is a relatively late addition to Rosie Robotics — he only joined sophomore year. Along with his experience as an Eagle Scout, Hotaling said his leadership role in FIRST has helped him sharpen his management and business skills. "I wasn't sure what to do before robotics," he said. Now he is looking to study mechanical engineering in college.

Raff Manzi

Raff is a member of the programming sub-team, and one of the robot drivers during competitions. He has also presented awards, written essays and presented business plans for the group. He says robotics teaches a "broad set of skills." All those long hours and shared goals also build a community, he said: "We're like a family. You can talk to any person. We have ice cream socials and eat lunch together."



Nathan Blain

Nathan, a sophomore and member of the mechanical sub-team, said the team puts in long hours during the build season: Monday through Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Fridays off; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. But he's happy to see the results at the tournaments: "One of the best things is showing all your hard work for six weeks."

"Oscar"

Oscar is this year's Rosie Robotics robot. He was built over a six-week period in January and early February. His task, like other robots in this year's FRC challenge, is to stack recycling totes and pick up litter. In keeping with the recycling theme, Rosie Robotics named him after Oscar the Grouch. He has a twin, the team's practice robot named Pigpen.



ROBOTS ■ from page 1

are actually several FIRST competitions for various grade levels and seasons of the year; this particular discipline is the FRC, the FIRST Robotics Competition.

On the team itself, the executive officers all have abbreviated titles, from the familiar CEO and CFO of the corporate world to a few more obscure titles. Billy Bessette, the student in charge of maintaining a safe work environment, wears a reflective vest adorned with the letters DORM — "director of risk management."

Even the team name, which was originally a tribute to Rosie the Robot, the housemaid of television's Jetson family, has been retroactively assigned an acronym: Recognizing Outstanding Science Inspired Education.

Agawam was one of only two Pioneer Valley teams on the floor at MassMutual.

"We don't have that many teams in Western Mass.," acknowledged Bob Sobolewski, president and CEO of EBM-Papst in Farmington, Conn., and a member of FIRST's national executive advisory board. "We want to get the Springfield kids to come by."

Dana Henry, a senior mentor for FIRST and an Agawam resident, agreed: "This is 'build it and they will come.'"

Even Agawam, which has had a team for 14 years, took advantage of a tournament just over the bridge. About 100 middle school students from Roberta Doering School went on a field trip to watch a portion of the competition on Friday and go on a tour of the pit area, guided by high schoolers.

The New England FIRST Pioneer Valley District Event at the MassMutual Center featured 33 high school robotics teams from across the Northeast, including five of the New England states and one team from New Jersey. Each individual match divided six teams into two "alliances" of three each. In the qualification round, the alliances changed from match to match. After qualifications, the teams were sorted into playoff alliances, which faced off in a tournament bracket.

In the 2015 challenge, "Recycle Rush," robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers, and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter. In keeping with the recycling theme of the game, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable by teams in their home location or by FIRST at the end of the season.

Agawam finished No. 15 in the qualification round.

Each team's on- and off-the-field performance at two district events will determine whether it qualifies for the district championships next month at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Winning teams in Worcester will qualify for the world championships, to be held in St. Louis, April 22-25.

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Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: Angelo Brignoli: Springfield Technical Community College; Ian Hastings: Holyoke Community College; Dan Barrows: U.S. Army; Tori McCullough: Newbury College; Jeff Leclerc: University of Connecticut

Seniors: Please let Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office know what college/university you have been accepted into.

Students planning to go on the Credit For Life field trip in April need to return the permission slips to Ms. Sheehan ASAP.

Springfield National College Fair: NA-CAC invites students to the Big E on Sunday, April 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Register for the college fair at www.gotomyncf.com. It will save you time by providing you with a personalized barcode that can be scanned at each booth rather than having to write your information multiple times. You may also view a list of participating institutions by clicking on the college fair link on the same website. Check the list often for updates.

STCC STEM Academy: Open to seniors with a minimum 2.00 GPA who are inter-

ested in pursuing a STEM career (science, technology, engineering or math field) and plan on attending STCC in the fall. This academy begins in the summer and is free for accepted participants. Program participants earn a \$400 stipend, free college courses, attend free field trips to learn more about STEM careers, hear from STEM experts and participate in hands-on activities with some of the STEM professors. Interested applicants must submit a STCC admissions application for the fall and a STEM Starter Academy application. The STEM Starter Academy application is available at www.stcc.edu/stemacademy/. Students must submit both applications by May 1.

Free Financial Aid Application Assistance for Mass. Residents: American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid application at centers and over the phone by calling 877-332-4348. Visit www.asa.org/plan for more information.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 16: Chicken drummies with ranch dip, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 17: Grilled cheese / grilled ham and cheese, tomato soup, oyster crackers, pudding cup, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, March 18: Macaroni and cheese, garlic breadstick, steamed peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, March 19: Shepherd's pie (mashed potatoes and cheddar cheese), southern-style corn, ice cream cup, chilled fruit.

Friday, March 20: Personal pan pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, March 16: Chicken drummies with ranch dip, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 17: Grilled cheese / grilled ham and cheese, tomato soup, oyster crackers, pudding cup, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, March 18: Macaroni and cheese, garlic breadstick, steamed peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, March 19: Cissy's meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, southern-style green beans, ice cream cup, chilled fruit.

Friday, March 20: Personal pan pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, March 16: Chicken drummies with ranch dip, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 17: Grilled cheese / grilled ham and cheese, tomato soup, oyster crackers, pudding cup, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, March 18: Macaroni and cheese, garlic breadstick, steamed peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, March 19: Shepherd's pie (beef, corn, cheddar cheese and mashed potatoes), southern-style green beans, ice cream cup, chilled fruit.

Friday, March 20: Personal pan pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, March 16: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Tuesday, March 17: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Nutri-Grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Wednesday, March 18: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Thursday, March 19: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Friday, March 20: Mini chocolate chip pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, chilled juice.

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 81 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from March 3 to March 9.

On March 3 at 6:42 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On March 3 at 7:09 a.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On March 3 at 4:54 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On March 3 at 6:07 p.m., the department responded to Kensington Street for cooking fire, confined to container.

On March 4 at 7:22 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for smoke or odor removal.

On March 5 at 2:06 a.m., the department responded to Maynard Street for water problem, other.

On March 5 at 8:44 a.m., the department responded to Century Street for telephone, malicious false alarm.

On March 5 at 11:52 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Extension for building or structure weakened or collapsed.

On March 5 at 2:14 p.m., the department responded to Norris Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On March 6 at 1:28 p.m., the department responded to Kanawha Avenue for lockout.

On March 6 at 3:52 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On March 6 at 9:58 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On March 8 at 12:27 p.m., the department responded to Juniper Ridge Drive for carbon monoxide incident.

On March 9 at 8:15 a.m., the department responded to Century Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On March 9 at 3:54 p.m., the department responded to Dover Street for detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On March 9 at 6:56 p.m., the department responded to Bowles Road for sprinkler activation, no fire — unintentional.

On March 9 at 9:21 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 312 calls for service from March 3 to March 9. The department made four arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 3

Nicholas Savard, 19, of 9 Ashley St., Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Thursday, March 5

John Kelliher, 59, of 34 Willow Creek, Suffield, Conn. was arrested on a charge of operating under the influence.

Friday, March 6

Elizabeth Jane Ritchie, 25, of 222.5 Exchange St., Apt. 1, Chicopee, was arrested on charges of possession of a Class B drug, two counts of possession of a Class E drug, larceny over \$250, four counts of larceny under \$250, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Monday, March 9

Vincenzo G. Altamura, 29, of 28 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with license revoked as HTO.

Crafters, vendors sought for Band-athon

The Agawam High School Band Parents Association will host the second annual Band-athon on Saturday, May 16, to raise funds in support of the Agawam High School band program. It will be held at Agawam High School, rain or shine. One of the features of this fundraiser is an area for crafters and other vendors to display and sell their products. Cost is \$30 per table.

Last year, the Band-athon was a huge success and raised much-needed funds for the band. In addition to the vendors, it will feature live music performed by current students, AHS alumni and local bands, food, fun for kids, and much more.

To participate in this fundraiser and rent a table, contact Mel Gaynor, vendor coordinator, at melandfamily@yahoo.com.

CAMPUS NOTES...

Ashland University: Alec Iannuzzi, of Agawam, has been accepted to Ashland University for the fall semester of 2015 and will receive the director's scholarship for \$7,000 annually to attend.

Clark University: Alexandra Jeannotte and Mary Molloy, of Agawam; and Olivia Isom, of Feeding Hills, were named to second honors on the fall semester dean's list.

The College of Saint Rose: Lauren Booth, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Eastern Connecticut State University: Jacob Smith, of Feeding Hills, opens the season with the men's baseball program.

Emmanuel College: Cian O'Sullivan, of Agawam, and Larisa Cassie, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Franklin Pierce University: Amanda K. Messick, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Goodwin College: Marlene Aquino, Gabrielle Calvanese, Charles Rossi and Katlynn Sullivan, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list. Gabrielle Calvanese achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average, earning a spot on the elite

president's list.

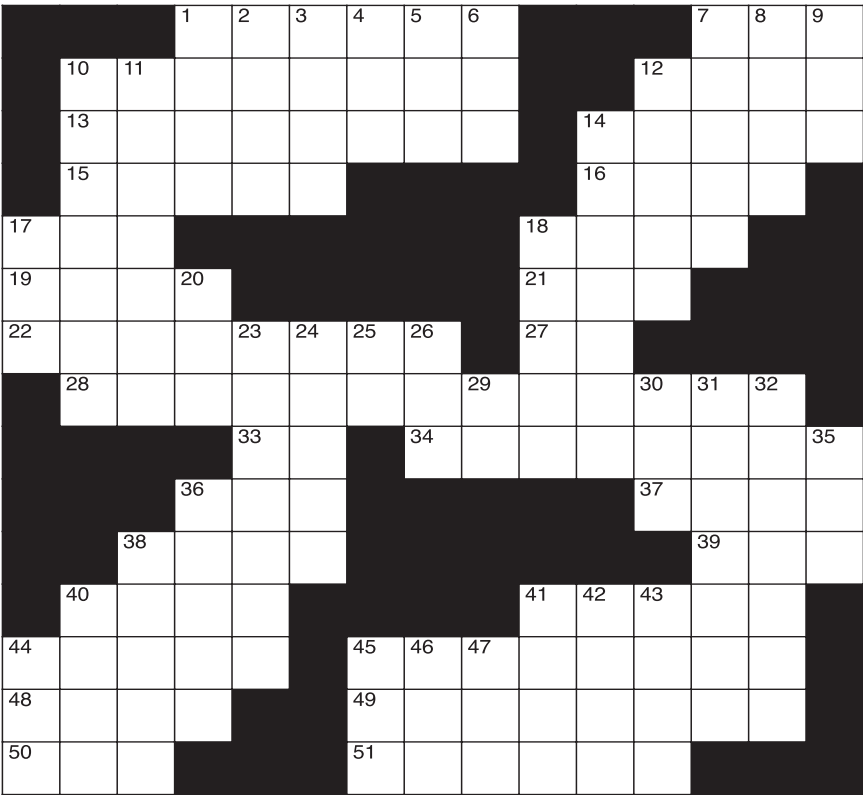
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences: Rachel Tryba, of Agawam and Yelisei Murauski, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Mount Ida College: Mary Reidy, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Suffolk University: Zachary Hanchett and Cory Marcotte, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

University of Massachusetts Amherst: Christopher P. Camp, David R. Cotrone, Jesse Armfield, Joseph E. Cecchi, Kaeli E. Howard, Michael Rossi, Stephanie M. Karrasch, Thomas D. Moore and William C. Howe, of Agawam; and Abigail E. Asselin, Cathryn M. Joyce, Danielle M. Kodess, David G. Morin, Dee-Ann E. McCarthy, Elyse A. Cote, Eric Brown, Gabrielle M. Mirolli, Jennifer A. Dudek, Kelsey Niziolek, Piotr Peryeu and Rachel A. Lloyd, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Westfield State University: Jenna A. Passerini, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.



CLUES ACROSS

- Slavonic language
- Solid water
- Supply with notes
- Edible bivalve
- Field game
- Yellow edible Indian fruits
- Lubricant that protects body surfaces
- Canadian flyers
- Took a seat
- Anthracite
- Cuckoos
- Vietnamese currency unit
- Subject to payment on demand
- Opposite of BC
- The distance around an object
- Blood type
- Expressing gratitude
- Bridge-building
- degree
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- Great black-backed gull
- The largest island in the West Indies
- Vegetation consisting of stunted trees or bushes
- Support trestles
- Single rail system
- Call upon in supplication
- Small compartment
- Lair
- Unpleasant nagging women

CLUES DOWN

- College civil rights organization

- "Full House" actress Loughlin
- Egyptian sun god
- Vessel or duct
- Belonging to a thing
- After B
- Refers to end of small intestine
- Baby cow
- River of Memmert Germany
- Farmer's calendar
- Spiral shelled cephalopods
- Source of chocolate
- Diversify
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Freshwater & limestone green algae
- Single Lens Reflex
- Gum arabics
- Austrian philosopher Martin
- Maltese pound
- An immature newt
- Popular Canadian statement
- Norwegian monetary unit (abbr.)
- A journey around a course
- Confer a nobility title upon
- Idle talk
- British policeman
- A citizen of Havana
- Highly glazed finish
- A portion of
- Squad
- Betrayers
- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Married woman
- Express delight
- Neither

Answers on page 6

Business

Noble Hospital looking at joining Baystate Health

WESTFIELD — The boards of trustees of Noble Hospital and Baystate Health have authorized the organizations to sign a letter of intent to explore Noble becoming a member of Baystate Health, the hospitals said in a press release March 5.

Noble's potential affiliation with Baystate Health now enters a period of review and due diligence within the organizations and in partnership with the relevant regulatory and oversight bodies. This work is expected

to occur over the next several months. In the meantime it will be operations as usual for both organizations.

"I believe the brightest future for Noble, our employees, our patients and our community lies in partnership with a high-quality and well-integrated academic health network such as Baystate Health," said Ronald P. Bryant, president and CEO of Noble Health Network, which includes Noble Hospital, Noble Medical Group and Noble Visit-

ing Nurse and Hospice. "We look forward to advancing our discussions to determine the best course forward for Noble and for our community."

"For more than 100 years, Westfield and its surrounding communities have always received outstanding care from Noble Hospital," said Robert J. Bacon, chair of the Noble Hospital Board of Trustees. "This potential relationship with Baystate Health would be a significant step forward in continuing that

legacy, and providing even higher-quality and better-coordinated care to our patients."

Baystate Health's current facilities include five hospitals: Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield; Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield; Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware; and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer. Noble has about 750 employees, who would join Baystate Health's team of 11,500 across Western Massachusetts.

Legals

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Steven E. MacCormack** and **Julie E. MacCormack** to United Bank f/k/a Rockville Bank, said mortgage being dated August 18, 2005, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15277, Page 104, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 2, 2015, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely Lot on Barry Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain piece or parcel of land with all buildings and improvements thereon, located partially in the Town of Suffield, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, and partially in the Town of Agawam, Hampden County and State of Massachusetts, as shown on a map or plan entitled, "PROPERTY SURVEY PREPARED FOR STEVEN MACCORMACK REAR HALLIDAY AVENUE SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT Alford Associates, Inc. CIVIL ENGINEERS WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT WILSON M. ALFORD, JR., P.E. & L.S. DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2004 SCALE 1 IN. = 100 FT. REVISED 4-15-04 and 4-21-04," which map or plan is on file in the Town

Clerk's Office in the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, and the Hampden County Registry of Deeds. Plan Book 388, Page 70.

See Book 15277, Page 101 for Deed Reference and Book 15277, Page 104.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder

at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said

mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

United Bank
f/k/a Rockville Bank,
Present Holder
of said Mortgage
By **Francis R. Mirkin**,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
3/5,3/12,3/19/15

Town of Agawam LEGAL AD

The Town of Agawam is accepting proposals for the maintenance of the Agawam portion of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway and Pynchon Point Park parking lot landscaping for calendar year 2015. The path is 1.75 miles long and runs along the Connecticut River on the east side of River Road. Pynchon Point Park is located at the north end of River Road. The successful bidder shall be required to execute a contract with the Town of Agawam. For a copy of the Request for Proposals and contract, please contact the Agawam Planning Office at 786-0400, extension 8738. Proposals shall be submitted to the Agawam Planning Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, by **April 1, 2015**.

PER ORDER OF:
Office of Planning & Community Development
3/5,3/12/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD14P2140GD
In the interests of
Madison E Seaver

Of Feeding Hills, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/23/2014 by **John E Seaver** of Feeding Hills, MA, **Jane M Seaver** of Feeding Hills, MA will be held 03/23/2015 01:15 pm Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor Springfield, MA 01103

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: February 12, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/12/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD14P2141GD In the interests of Maximillian Zachary Seaver Of Feeding Hills, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/23/2014 by **John E Seaver** of Feeding Hills, MA, **Jane M Seaver** of Feeding Hills, MA will be held 03/23/2015 01:15 pm Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor Springfield, MA 01103

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Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/12/15



Town of Agawam

Collector's Office
36 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837
Tel. 413-786-0400 ext. 8712 Fax 413-726-2826

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF AGAWAM
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING
TO THE OWNERS OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED
LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on Friday, March 27, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of the general Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

To Avoid Tax Taking Please Call: 786-0400
for information on total amounts due including interest and expenses
Ext. 8218 Collector's Office
Ext. 8712 Laurel Placzek, Collector-Treasurer
Ext. 8710 AnnMarie Hartmann, Assistant Collector

DEMPSEY AUDREY J L/T,
DEMPSEY JAMES E,
LAND & BUILDING located at 397 NORTH WESTFIELD ST in AGAWAM, containing .710 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map D13040007, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 13146-307. Tax for FY-2014 \$1,734.22.

DESCANT GENE J + DEBORAH,
DEPRIMO FANNY,
LAND & BUILDING located at 913 SPRINGFIELD ST in AGAWAM, containing .270 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map G11010006, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 5950-/526. Tax for FY-2014 \$1,154. 84.

GOTHA KENEN M,
PLANTE LYNNE A,
LAND & BUILDING located at 157 FLORIDA DR in AGAWAM, containing .250 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map L07010027, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 8012-/49. Tax for FY-2014 \$577.27.

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN FEATURE YOUR BUSINESS AS A

“Local Business Profile”

Call John at 413-786-7747

Seniors

Wearin' of the green



From left, Judy Bouchard, Lise Bidane, Sylvia Buoniconti, Nancy Dupre, and Elaine Blazejewski, show off their green at the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center's corned beef and cabbage dinner Tuesday night. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Katherine Hanling, left, and Diane Lyons-Frasco stands with Friends of the Senior Center President Emile Cote, who eyes his corned beef and cabbage.



Mariann Kinney shows off the lottery tree up for raffle at the event.



State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, and state Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, in the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, March 16: Chicken gratin, mashed potatoes, dilled carrots, bananas.

Tuesday, March 17: Cream of chicken and rice soup, broccoli quiche, cucumber dill salad, apricots.

Wednesday, March 18: Roast turkey, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce, gravy, pudding.

Thursday, March 19: Shepherd's pie, garden salad, baked good.

Friday, March 20: Baked fish, rice pilaf, buttered spinach, mixed fruit.

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 16: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo, Financial Seminar with Raymond Rose (Garden Room); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold, St. Patrick's Committee Corned Beef Dinner.

Tuesday, March 17: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Chair Exercise; 12:30

p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie (Travel Movie - Ireland); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class; Agawam Junior Women's Club Meeting.

Wednesday, March 18: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 8:30 a.m., Meet the Mayor (Friends Coffee Shop); 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons, Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold; Tobacco Valley Artists Meeting.

Thursday, March 19: Free Tax Prep (by appointment only); 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch, Evening Line Dancing.

Friday, March 20: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Sunday, March 22: Agawam Senior Center Bus in Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

The "Love" concert by the Memory Lane Chorus of the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., is scheduled for Friday, April 17, with performances at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

Some of the songs to be featured include "I'm in the Mood for Love," "Let's Fall in Love," "Love is Just Around the Corner," "Make Believe," "Taking a Chance on Love," "When You Wish Upon a Star," "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," "They Say it's Wonderful,"

"The Best Things in Life are Free," "Love Walked Right In," "You Made Me Love You," "Our Love is Here to Stay," "Melody of Love" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

The format of the performances is not doing each song as a separate entity, but stringing a number of things together.

The performance is free with small donations accepted to help pay the expenses of the production. We are hoping that by providing the evening performance, people that are unable to attend in the afternoon will be able to enjoy the concert.

AHS '64 to host reunion

The Agawam High School Class of 1964 will host a 51st reunion Sunday, June 7, at Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam.

There will be a golf scramble event at 10 a.m., followed by a social at 2 p.m. and an all-you-can-eat barbeque at 2:45 p.m.

For more information,
visit www.Agawam64.com.



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till 8 PM

St. Patrick's Week Special

Corned Beef and Cabbage

March 12th to 19th



Whole
Easter
Hams



and Turkeys

Sandwich • Soda • Chips **\$5.95**

Served Monday -Friday

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*DRT Power Systems, LLC, is committed to being the leader in machining blades and vanes for the aerospace and power generation market by providing innovative technology, quality precision components and superior support. **Our BNB division in Winsted, CT and our OA division in Agawam, MA are currently seeking:***

Skilled Machinists

- VMC**
Requires ability to operate 3, 4, and 5-axis vertical machining centers, set-up and debug complex, tight-tolerance work, follow detailed in-process inspection work instructions utilizing hand metrology as well as a CMM.
- CNC Lathe**
Requires the ability to set-up and debug complex, tight-tolerance components. Prefer twin-spindle, two-turret experience with programming in Partmaker.

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EOE

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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Brownies take D3 championship

Knock off rival Westfield

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – This time, the Brownies finished the job.

A late goal gave Westfield some life, but Agawam's defense played so strong that Westfield goalie Garrett Matthews could not leave his crease until there was 19 seconds left.

In a rematch of last year's Western Massachusetts Division 3 Championship, the Brownies reached the top, defeating last year's defending champion Westfield 2-1 last Thursday night in front of a huge raucous crowd at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

All Agawam needed was two goals from their scoring leader, defenseman Seamus Curran, and the Brownies were in the driver's seat during the third quarter.

The Bombers were able to score a goal with about 5:00 remaining, squeaking the puck by Connor McAnanama, but the Brownies held the one-goal lead for the remainder of the game to win their first Division 3 title since rejoining the upper division in Western Mass.

The Brownies two years ago overcame rival South Hadley and won the 3A title before entering Division 3. After getting upended in last year's final, the Brownies outplayed the Bombers, as they had in one other game earlier in the season.

Agawam held a possession advantage very early in the game, outshooting Westfield 10-6 in the first period. Westfield did a good job putting themselves in front of Agawam shooters.



Sabrina Dubiel tries to retain possession of the ball. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

The Brownies nearly had a chance to score early when Elijah Bard fed Joe Mercadante. Mercadante sent a good slap shot in that was saved by Matthews.

Agawam had an 8-1 shot lead after just 7:00 of play.

The two teams traded penalties during the final 7:00 of the period, but neither team was able to take advantage of their power play opportunities.

The teams would also play scoreless hockey through most of the second period, with Agawam still holding the advantage in possession and shots on goal. The Brownies had a couple of quality shots on goal by Chris Breault and Zach Circosta, but neither got by.

With a little more than 1:00 remaining in the second period, John Passerini would send the puck to Curran on the left side. Curran crossed through the neutral zone and into Agawam's offensive zone. He then lifted a perfect wrist shot that connected into the upper right of the net to give the Brownies their first score of the game.

Up 1-0 in the third period, Agawam did not stop working, continuing to seek that insurance goal.

Agawam got a power play with less than 10:00 to play, but could not convert on the man-advantage. Shortly after the penalty expired, Agawam was still on the attack, and Curran was set up in the middle. He took a pass from the side by Circosta, and sent the puck low between the legs of Matthews to make it 2-0 Agawam.

Ryan Porter got Westfield's goal with 5:17 left. He took a pass from Chris Sullivan and slipped it through a narrow gap in the left side of the net to make it 2-1.

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HOCKEY

Patriots, Agawam took similar path

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam ice hockey is no stranger to the state tournament, but for the first time in many years, the Brownies will move into the Massachusetts Division 3 State Tournament.

Two years ago, Agawam won the Division 3A state title, defeating Grafton, 3-1, at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Tonight, the Brownies are opening the Division 3 state tournament against North Middlesex, the Central Massachusetts champion. North Middlesex is coming off a win over Shrewsbury 2-1. They also played on Monday night while Agawam is coming off a full week's rest.

Both teams are coming off huge regular seasons and are looking to head to the state final at a date and time to be determined.

North Middlesex went 17-1-2

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Agawam's Zach Circosta (17) carries the puck up the ice. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM



Agawam's Elijah Bard (21) takes a look up the ice.

WRESTLING

Basile finishes off great year at New Englands

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Though he didn't place last weekend, the New England High School Wrestling Tournament was an experience to remember for Anthony Basile.

Basile, who won the Western Massachusetts and state Division 1 championships at 145 pounds, qualified for the New England Tournament for the second straight year. Last year, he could not compete due to a shoulder injury. This year, he left everything on the mat.

Basile, coach Armando Ramos, and teammates Nick Hope and Nick Blais traveled to the tournament at North Andover High School last weekend.

The environment was much different for the senior as he was without his usual compliment of more than a dozen teammates.

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At the finals



Agawam teacher Mary Murphy (left) poses for a picture with Chris Basile (right).



The Agawam boys celebrate winning the trophy with the coaching staff. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Michael Shea (middle) gives the trophy to Agawam's John Passerini (left) and Cam Rivest (right).



The Agawam fans that are posing are (from left to right) Maggie Belanger, Julianne Moriarty, Christie Mirski, Jonny Kelley (also known as "The Orange Man"), Sam Charette and Sydney O'Keefe.

BASKETBALL

New Brownies gain valuable experience

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam boys basketball team finished up a regular season in which they went 7-13.

The Brownies would finish in fifth place in the Suburban League and find themselves out of the playoff mix despite a stronger second half.

Coach Dave Federico has been dealing with a bit of a power outage outside Tyler Desrosiers, who came up with 1,500 career points and graduated last year. Agawam has made the playoffs a couple of times, but has failed to get out of the first round.

This year, Federico took a much different approach to rebuilding his squad after seeing Desrosiers and some other experienced seniors graduate and leave the team with fewer players that had seen real time on the varsity court.

Federico brought up a lot of sophomores and a couple of freshmen acknowledging it was going to be a big rebuilding year for his team.

"We had a lot of new guys coming up," said Federico. "We had little varsity experience, but there were a lot of guys who were energized with potential."

In several games toward the middle of the season, Federico utilized up to his entire roster, unusual for many high school basketball teams, and often changed out his entire lineup and replaced it with five new players. That was also a unique approach.

"Using 10 players allowed us to keep the

guys fresh, and get everyone an opportunity to contribute," said Federico of his approach.

He said everyone who was given an opportunity to play on the varsity roster was able to make an impact on the floor and earned the time they spent out there.

"The sophomores and juniors had to ability to play at that level and were contributing," said Federico. "They also matured throughout the season, and became leaders on the court."

The production even came from the freshmen players, John Wright and Myles Scott. Both were able to go out on the court and score points. Wright managed double-digits on a couple of occasions. Meesha Ohradka, a sophomore, also emerged as a huge scoring threat. He was adept at the 3-pointer, providing the Brownies with some good distance shooting at times.

Federico said the team will have to get stronger and continue to develop next season to make a tournament run.

"This offseason, we are going to dedicated ourselves in the weight room getting stronger and on the court developing our games, he said. "We have a lot coming back next year, so that is promising as long as we fulfill our out of season obligations."

Maintaining motivation throughout the offseason and maintaining focus on our goals is always difficult. However, I believe this group has what it takes to make great strides and do well next year."

Agawam had a strong middle of the season, but lost five of seven at the end to get eliminated from tournament contention.

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Sports

Piranhas place fourth in PVSL champs

AGAWAM - The Agawam Piranhas completed the 2014-15 winter swim season in the Pioneer Valley Swim League recently with a record of five wins and three losses. The team placed fourth in the Pioneer Valley's 25 teams that make up the swim league.

Led by head coach Kaitlin Reilly and assistant coaches Kendra Matland and Sarah Welch, the team grew to 155 swimmers this season. The Piranhas had an end-of-season banquet in February and recognized the championship record-breaking swim of team member Sydney Winters, who broke the Pioneer Valley all-time record for 13-14 girls 100-yard butterfly at 58.14 and the 100-yard backstroke at 58.70.

Recipients of the coach's Golden Towel Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship were Ramses Morantes and Abbey Hildreth. Also recognized were "most improved" swimmers in all age categories, as well as swimmers who had perfect attendance at all swim meets.

The Piranhas will hold a stroke and turn clinic for existing team members in March and April. Sign-ups are limited to the first 24 swimmers for ages 10 and under and 30 swimmers ages 11 and older. The summer swim season for the Pioneer Valley League runs May to July. To sign up, visit the town of Agawam website. New swimmers must be age 6 and be able to swim one lap (any stroke) to qualify. New members, ages 6 to 18 are always welcome.

CHAMPIONSHIPS ■ from page 12

Up by just a goal, Agawam worked to keep the puck on Westfield end during the last minute of play, preventing Matthews from leaving the goal and allowing Westfield to go for a tie. A call sent the faceoff to Agawam's end with seconds waning, allowing Matthews to exit, but Westfield was not able to do anything, giving Agawam the championship.

McAnanama finished 18 saves on 19 Westfield shots. Agawam had 30 shots, with Matthews saving 28 of them.



Agawam's John Colwell (15) takes a look up the ice. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Agawam goalie Seamus Curran (6) receives congratulations from his teammates as he points toward the bench after scoring the game's first goal.



Agawam's Matt Clarke (8) turns and looks to make a play up the ice.

BASILE ■ from page 12

"It was definitely different not having the whole team there to joke with and cheer me on, but I was really fortunate to have my two other captains Nick Hope and Nick Blais there to support me and share the experience with me even though they weren't wrestling," said Basile.

Blais and Hope both competed in the state tournament after strong showings in Western Mass. Both, like Basile, also achieved their 100th wins during the season.

Basile was the most recent 100-win wrestler for Agawam. Basile lost his entire sophomore year to a torn ACL suffered during a football game. Getting to 100 wins in three years was a great accomplishment. The injury also provided Basile with a lot of motivation.

"I've kind of wrestled with a chip on my shoulder because of the fact that I missed out on a year of wrestling and most of my opponents had not," said Basile.

Basile is planning to play football in college, and says his lack of wrestling outside of the high school season might have hurt him against the competition at New England's.

"I think it really hurt me that I never really wrestled in the off season after seeing the guys who were there," said Basile. "It definitely didn't end the way I wanted. My goal was to place at New England's, but I'm glad I did well there and hope I was kind of a role model to the younger guys in the youth program."

With the close of the New England tournament, Basile's focus moves back to football. Basile was injured at the conclusion of the regular season in 2012 when he tore his ACL in the Thanksgiving Day game against West Springfield. After losing his wrestling season and the spring, Basile came back to the football team in 2013. He was part of a Brownies team that went to the sectional championship twice.

Basile will be spending time this spring training for the fall football season.

He is planning to play at Westfield State University and will be majoring in criminal justice. He would someday like to be a state police trooper.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Agawam's Nico Passerini (22) tries to gain control of the puck. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

STATES ■ from page 12

during the regular season. They outlasted a bracket that included Algonquin, which defeated Agawam during the regular season this year. They defeated Wachusett, 2-1, in overtime during the Central Mass. semifinal round.

The Patriots followed a similar path of their opponents. Last year, they won the Division 3A state championship against Chicopee.

North Middlesex then went into Division 3 and ran rough shot against that competition this year, much like Agawam has for the past two seasons.

Agawam enters the state semifinal game with a huge push of momentum.

Agawam had an undefeated record in their league, the competitive Berry Division, going 12-0-2. They won the league for the second straight year, and this time, finished off their run to the sectional title when they beat Westfield, 2-1, last Thursday night in the Western Massachusetts Division 3 Championship. They also ran through Longmeadow in the semifinals 7-0. The Lancers were a team that had given Agawam headaches during the regular season.

Agawam's only disadvantage is the Brownies' three losses came against teams outside the region. The Brownies suffered losses against Marblehead, Algonquin, and Wayland.

But Agawam has plenty of weapons from all three of their lines. The Brownies have a lot of senior power with 11, and a goalie, sophomore Connor McAnanama, who is finding his way in his first full year as a starter.

The winner of the semifinal game Thursday will take on the winner of the game between North Champion Watertown and South Champion Norwell. That semifinal took place Wednesday night. Agawam has not played either team.

Thursday's game will take place at Springfield's Mass-Mutual Center at 5:30 p.m.

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SUMMER CAMP 2015

Opportunities for memories and experiences that will last a lifetime

Summer camp at the Belchertown Kidz Club is an opportunity for kids of all ages to participate, discover, and learn in a setting that provides a balanced opportunity, between structure and free time, to access an 'out of school time' curriculum that fosters multi-intelligence skills. It is a place to be creative, socialize with peers, share personal talents,

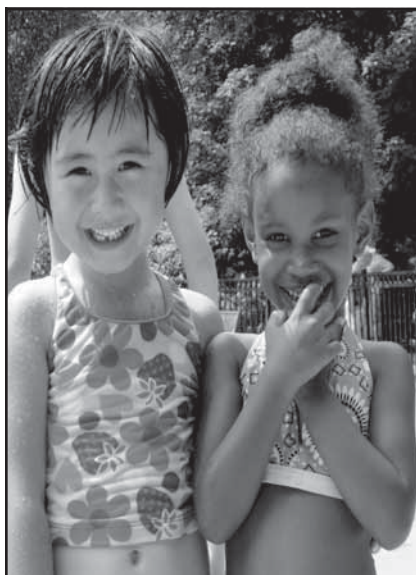
and try new things in a safe environment that's meant for self-exploration.

It is imperative to allow children time to spend discovering their strengths and abilities in a variety of areas, i.e. science, music, cooking, sports, art, math, theater, and more, in a setting outside of the classroom that is not hindered by structured man-

dates, and instead can be presented without the time limitations of the traditional school day, to foster opportunities to develop understanding. These important areas of learning are all integrated into themed activities along with swimming, and other daily outdoor activities to provide children naturally accessible opportunities for

growth beyond the technologically enhanced world we live in.

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2015

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May 14 5:30-7pm	May 28 5:30-7pm
May 21 5:30-7pm	June 4 5:30-7pm

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, March 13

CORNEBEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER hosted by the Agawam Lions Club will take place at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., from 5-7 p.m. Tickets available at the door, in advance from any Lions Club member, at Southgate Liquors or Bob's Barber Shop on Maple St.

Saturday, March 14

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FR. THOMAS SHEA COUNCIL 11178 will host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Road, Southwick. Tickets are \$8 per person for adults, \$5 for children, and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call District Deputy Al Matos, at 413-569-6914.

COMMUNITY GRANGE 382, 47 North West St., Feeding Hills, will hold an indoor "Cabin Fever Tag and Bake Sale" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. Snow date is March 21.

Sunday, March 15

THERE WILL BE A "COLLEEN MEET AND GREET" with the 2015 Agawam colleen and court members from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cooper's, 161 Main St., Agawam. All young lassies are invited to meet the colleen and court for a photo opportunity. Tea, juice and cookies will be served. The Agawam St. Patrick Colleen Committee will provide the little girls with a crown, bouquet of green carnations and Irish wrap to wear for the photo.

STORROWTON VILLAGE, 1305 MEMORIAL AVE., WEST SPRINGFIELD, will host Maple Harvest Day with

free education events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The West Springfield Lions Club and Storowton Tavern will each feature dining experiences. For more information, visit TheBigE.com or call 413-205-5051.

Tuesday, March 17

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Zeke Hecker on oboe; Karen Bressett on clarinet; Diane Liparito on bassoon; and Margarita Nuller on piano, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Friday, March 20

MUSICAL IMAGINATION ADVENTURE FAMILY CONCERT at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 11 a.m. Children from birth to age 5 will sing, dance and imagine with Cheryl Melody. Participants will meet her puppet, Shy Mouse, and become part of each story and song.

Saturday, March 21

AGAWAM COMMUNITY & FAMILY PROGRAM will host the Agawam Community Informational Fair from 9 a.m. to noon in the Agawam High School cafeteria, 760 Cooper St. A great opportunity to learn about many local organizations providing services to families. Free child identification with MYCHIP, free Teddy Bear Clinic and face painting. Presentations by Firefighter Pam, Zoo on the Go and more.

Tuesday, March 24

AGAWAM COMMUNITY & FAMILY PROGRAM WILL HOST "Healthy Sleeping" facilitated by Behavior Health Network from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. It will focus on the science of sleep and the impact of sleep habits on development and behavior in children. Registration is not required.

Sunday, March 29

THE SPRINGFIELD VETERANS' ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE will hold a public observance for Vietnam Veterans' Day at 1 p.m. It will take place at the Vietnam Veterans' Monument at Court Square in Springfield.

Tuesday, March 31

AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM will offer Parent Café from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., or 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Janet Brown will help parents identify and recognize the skills required for a child to read, and offer practical ways to create a positive reading environment in your home. Free childcare available in the morning only.

Wednesday, April 1

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 or older. To make an appointment, call 413-786-1460.

Wednesday, April 8

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Friday, April 10

AN '80s THROWBACK DANCE will be held at the Westfield Elks Lodge, 56 Franklin Ave., at 7 p.m. Funds raised will support the Westfield Food Pantry, 101 Meadow St. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Food Pantry during business hours, online at www.westfieldfoodpantry.org or at the door. Tickets purchased online can be mailed or picked up from the food pantry.

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR ANIMALS will host a benefit tag sale from Friday, April 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4

p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wachogue Congregational Church, 80 Arvilla St., Springfield. For information to donate items, call Susan at 413-782-9006. All proceeds will help dogs and cats in need in Western Massachusetts.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the conference room of Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 413-786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.



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Fourth graders Zachary Hurley (left) and Tony Peberzani (center) show off a large wooden roller coaster they built that uses marbles and plastic tubing to demonstrate the effects of friction.

FAIR ■ from page 1

project topics: investigation of a scientific method, create an invention, or research a famous engineer or scientist.

This was the second year Sarah Kriebel participated in the fair. Last year, as a kindergartener, she made a collection of butterflies. This year, she decided on the moon project.

"She wanted to learn more about the moon," said her father, Jason Kriebel.

He helped his daughter do research on the Internet and took photos of the moon to use on the display board, but Sarah did nearly all the project herself. That included building and painting a model of the Earth and the moon for the display.

Sarah's mother, Melissa Kriebel, called the science and engineering fair an "enriching" experience that helps her daughter explore scientific topics. "My daughter has a love for learning. This project gave her the chance to explore a scientific topic and learn more about it."

Added Sarah, "I like science because you can learn about nature and other things."

Enhancing science skills

Tammy Rumpalik, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) teacher at Granger and Clark elementary schools, has organized the science and engineering fair at both schools for several years. The Clark fair was held March 11.

She said the projects help kids enhance their science learning skills. "My ultimate goal is to inspire and excite students. I want to instill a love of learning — and hopefully a lifelong curiosity — about the sciences and engineering."

Rumpalik said while a "traditional" science fair may not include kindergarteners or first graders, she designed age-appropriate projects so all students at both schools could participate if they wanted.

"I like to break tradition a little and think outside the box," she said.

She added that there's been an increased

emphasis put on the engineering aspect of the science fair during the past five years: "This is where many of the high-paying careers are in the STEM fields."

Two future engineers may be fourth graders Zachary Hurley and Tony Peberzani. The 10-year-olds built a large wooden roller coaster out of some bookshelves to demonstrate the effects of friction. Marbles placed at the top of the display traveled through clear plastic tubing placed at various level, taking twists and turns before reaching bottom.

"The heavier the marble, the more friction, the faster the marbles go," explained Tony.

Added Zachary, "I like roller coasters and saw another student do this project at last year's fair."

Anthony Peberzani said he was impressed with his son's project: "It's a good idea and kid-friendly."

Kevin Hurley said he and Peberzani brainstormed with their sons about the project that took three days to build.

"It came together level by level. We kept adjusting it, making it longer, better, or faster," said Hurley.

Rumpalik said students aren't graded and don't receive any extra credit for their voluntary participation in the fair.

"This is all extra work above and beyond their regular school day," she said.

Astronaut, tarnished pennies

Fourth grader Ava Levesque won an award for her inventor or scientist project that displayed her research about one of her heroes: the late astronaut and astrophysicist Sally Ride.

"She's the first American woman in space — that's pretty cool," said the 10-year old.

Ava, who has numerous books about Ride, is thinking about becoming an astronaut one day. Although Ava already knew much about Ride, she learned even more through her research.

"She had many accomplishments," Ava



Helen Sanders stands in front of her science project holding a tube filled with tarnished pennies and a chemical mixture that cleans them.



Fourth grader Ava Levesque won an award at the Granger Elementary School science and engineering fair on March 5 for her project about one of her heroes, astronaut Sally Ride. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

said. "She was a top-ranked tennis player before she became an astronaut and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the California Hall of Fame."

Helen Sanders' project was a little more down to Earth. The third grader created a display demonstrating a chemical process to make tarnished pennies look shiny and new.

"I was staring at some dirty pennies one day and wondered what I could do to clean them," explained the 9-year old.

Her curiosity piqued, Ava asked her father and they went online to do some re-

search. They found that the chemical reaction of white vinegar and salt would clean the pennies.

"It was something original, so I decided to make it my project," said Helen as she held a tube filled with the chemical mixture and some old pennies. "It's been a fun project."

All projects in every grade level are judged on scientific or engineering learning, creativity, originality, presentation, and "overall excitement." Awards include medals and reusable lunch bags purchased by Rumpalik.



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